IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims of the patent application as follows wherein new text is indicated with underlining and deleted text is indicated with ~~strikethrough~~ or with [[double-brackets]]:

1.   (Currently Amended) An [[live]] interactive digital programming system, said [[live]] interactive digital programming system comprising:

a viewer television reception system to receive ~~for receiving live~~ interactive programming, the [[live]] interactive programming comprising a plurality of digitally compressed video, audio, branching codes and graphics signals, the reception system comprising:

a first input, said first input ~~for receiving said live~~ interactive programming comprising a stream of said plurality of digitally compressed video, audio, branching codes and graphics signals;

~~a second input, said second input comprising a connection to a computer network for receiving digitally compressed video, audio, and graphics signals;~~

a viewer interface to receive ~~for receiving~~ user input from a viewer, said user input from said viewer requested as an interrogatory when an interactive program begins or when said viewer first tunes in said interactive program;

a microprocessor, ~~connected~~ responsive to the viewer interface, to select ~~for selecting~~ at least one of the video, audio, or graphics signals from said first input ~~or second input~~ and direct ~~directing~~ a switch to the selected at least one video, audio, or graphics signals, the selection of the selected at least one video, audio, or graphics signals a function of the branching codes and the input from the viewer;

a decompressor/decoder, to decompress ~~for decompressing~~ the selected at least one video, audio, or graphics signals; and

an encoder to output ~~a means for outputting~~ the selected at least one video, audio, or graphics signal.

2.   (Currently Amended) The [[live]] interactive digital programming system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the plurality of digitally compressed video signals from said first input corresponds to different predetermined camera angles of an event.

3.   (Currently Amended) The [[live]] interactive digital programming system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the microprocessor selects one of the graphics signals at a predetermined time, the selection of the graphics signal a function of the branching codes and the input from the viewer, and further comprising a~~n~~ <u>encoder</u> ~~means~~, connected to the microprocessor, for presenting the selected graphics signal on [[the]] <u>a</u> display ~~means~~.

4.   (Currently Amended) The [[live]] interactive digital programming system as set forth in claim 1, wherein ~~the outputting means presents~~ at least one interrogatory to the viewer, the content of the interrogatory involving program options, and the input from the viewer correspond to collected input from the viewer via the viewer interface in response to the interrogatories.

5.   (Currently Amended) A<u>n</u> [[live]] interactive digital programming system, said [[live]] interactive digital programming system comprising:

　　　a viewer television reception system <u>to receive</u> ~~for receiving live~~ interactive
　　　　　programming, the [[live]] interactive programming comprising a plurality of digitally
　　　　　compressed video, audio, branching codes and graphics signals, the reception system
　　　　　comprising:
　　　　　　　a first input, said first input <u>to receive</u> ~~for receiving~~ said [[live]] interactive
　　　　　　　　programming comprising a stream of said plurality of digitally compressed
　　　　　　　　video, audio, branching codes and graphics signals;
　　　　　　　~~a second input, said second input comprising a connection to a computer network~~
　　　　　　　　~~for receiving digitally compressed video, audio, and graphics signals;~~

memory, <u>said memory</u> to store <s>for storing</s> a <u>set of answers from a</u> viewer <u>to an</u>

<u>interrogatory, said interrogatory presented when an interactive program begins</u>

<u>or when said viewer first tunes into said interactive program</u> <s>profile</s>;

a microprocessor, <u>to select</u> <s>for selecting</s> at least one of the video, audio, or

graphics signals from said first input <s>or second input</s> and <u>direct</u> <s>directing</s> a

switch to the selected at least one video, audio, or graphics signals, the

selection of the selected at least one video, audio, or graphics signals a

function of the branching codes and the stored <u>set of answers</u> <s>viewer profile</s>;

a decompressor/decoder, <u>to decompress</u> <s>for decompressing</s> the selected at least

one video, audio, or graphics signals; and

<u>an output circuit to output</u> <s>a means for outputting</s> the selected at least one video,

audio, or graphics signal.

6.   (Currently Amended) The [[live]] interactive digital programming system
as set forth in claim 5, wherein the plurality of digitally compressed video signals from said first
input correspond to different predetermined camera angles of an event.

7.   (Currently Amended) The [[live]] interactive digital programming system
as set forth in claim 5, wherein the microprocessor selects one of the graphics signals at a
predetermined time, the selection of the graphics signal a function of the branching codes and the
viewer profile, and further comprising a<u>n output circuit</u> <s>means</s>, connected to the microprocessor,
for presenting the selected graphics signal on [[the]] <u>a</u> display <s>means</s>.

8.   (Currently Amended) An[[live]] interactive digital programming system,
said [[live]] interactive digital programming system comprising:

a viewer television reception system <u>to receive</u> <s>for receiving live</s> interactive

programming, the [[live]] interactive programming comprising a plurality of digitally

compressed video, audio, branching codes, and Internet addresses, the reception

system comprising:

a first input, said first input to receive ~~for receiving said live~~ interactive

programming comprising a stream of said plurality of digitally compressed

video, audio, branching codes and graphics signals;

~~a second input, said second input comprising a connection to a computer network~~

~~for receiving digitally compressed video, audio, and graphics signals using~~

~~said Internet addresses;~~

a viewer interface to receive ~~for receiving~~ viewer entries, said viewer entries

requested as an interrogatory when an interactive program begins or when

said viewer first tunes in said interactive program;

a microprocessor ~~means~~, connected to the viewer interface, ~~for processing, said~~

~~processing means for~~ to select ~~selecting~~ at least one of video, audio, or

graphics signals and directing a switch to the selected at least one video,

audio, or graphics signals from said first input ~~or second input~~, the selection of

the at least one video, audio, or graphics signals a function of the branching

codes and the received viewer entries; and

an output circuit to output ~~a means for outputting~~ the selected at least one video,

audio, or graphics signals.

9.   (Currently Amended) The [[live]] interactive digital programming system

as set forth in claim 8, said [[live]] interactive digital programming system further comprising:

a decompressor/decoder, for decompressing the demultiplexed selected at least one video,

audio, or graphics signals.

10.   (Currently Amended) The [[live]] interactive digital programming system

as set forth in claim 8, wherein the plurality of digitally compressed video signals from said first

input correspond to a different predetermined camera angle of an event.

11.   (Currently Amended) The [[live]] interactive digital programming system

as set forth in claim 8, wherein the output circuit provides a viewer interface to display

~~outputting means displays~~ at least one interrogatory to the viewer, the content of the

interrogatory involving program options, and the viewer entries correspond to collected entries from the viewer via the viewer interface in response to the interrogatories.

      12.   (Currently Amended) The [[live]] interactive digital programming system as set forth in claim 8, wherein the [[live]] interactive programming further comprises a plurality of graphics signals and the <u>microprocessor</u> ~~processing means~~ selects one of the graphics signals at a predetermined time, the selection of the graphics signal a function of the branching codes and the viewer profile.

13. – 17.   (Cancelled)

18. (New)   The system of claim 8, wherein each branching code includes a header to identify a trigger point in the digitally compressed signals.

19. (New)   The system of claim 18, wherein the trigger point is one of multiple triggers positioned at various points in the interactive programming.

20. (New)   The system of claim 8, wherein each branching code further includes a function identifier to designate the set of executable instructions.

21. (New)   The system of claim 8, wherein at least one of the branching codes is part of an authoring language, which is a set of interactive data codes to facilitate an interactive process.

22. (New)   The system of claim 8, wherein the branching codes are to branch between interactive options and related features.

23. (New)   The system of claim 8, wherein at least one branching code further includes information of a user profile, the user profile stored in the memory storage unit.

24. (New)   The system of claim 23, wherein the user profile includes user preferences selected by the user at the onset of the interactive programming.

25. (New)   The system of claim 23, wherein the user preferences selected by the user are in response to interrogatory messages.